**Assignment for the BBC series *Life*: Episode “Challenges of Life” DUE DATE: 1/13/13**

*Create a written report for a proposed study for an organism that you observed in this video.*

**\*This assignment may be completed individually or in small groups (2-3 students)\***

**PROPOSED STUDY:**

**Your proposed study for your chosen organism must include the following components. A couple of study ideas include the following (you may choose a different idea to use for your proposed study);**

* + **Current population numbers**
  + **Measuring habitat size, migratory patterns, etc.**
  + **Feeding preference (does the organism selectively feed on a particular species and if so, what, and how could you determine a way to study its feeding preference?)**
  + **Measuring human impacts on organism’s habitat**
* **The study must use scientific methods and include a testable hypothesis, a dependent variable, an independent variable, a control, and a method to collect data on your organism.**
  + - **REVISIT the scientific method if you are uncertain about any of the features of the scientific method; your textbook has information about the scientific method.**
* **The study must include a basic overview of the organism, including the organism’s: feeding strategies/interactions (what does it eat, organisms it competes with, etc.), lifespan (how old does it get), habitat (where does it live and does the organisms require specific habitat?), and unique characteristics (what makes the organism unique?)**
  + - **You will probably need to do additional research to find information on your organism. Find a website as a resource for information on your organism. You must CITE YOUR SOURCES in your written report (at the end, tell me which websites you used). The sources must be a .gov, .edu, or .org for full credit. You must include at least one source for any credit and at least two sources for full credit.**
* **Written report must be at least one page (typed) using size 12 times new roman or arial font, be double-spaced, and include CITED SOURCE(S).**

**\*\* See second page for grading rubric\*\***

**Proposed Study will be graded according to the following grading rubric:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1-4 points** | **5-8 points** | **9-10 points** |
| **Study design** | **Study was poorly designed; included few components of the scientific method; no clear outcome for the study was established** | **Study was thoughtfully designed; included many parts of the scientific method; a clear outcome for the study was established** | **Study was outstanding in its design; included all parts of the scientific method; a clear outcome for the study was established; an effective strategy to collect data was included in the experimental design** |
| **Organism description** | **Organisms was poorly described; much information was missing about the organism’s life history strategies** | **Organisms were adequately described; all the key parts of the organism’s life history strategies were described in detail** | **Description of organism was outstanding; description of the organism went beyond the scope of the assignment** |
| **Report format** | **Report was formatted incorrectly (less than one page, not size 12 font); no citation was included** | **Report was correctly formatted (one page, size 12 font); one citation included** | **Report was correctly formatted (one page, size 12 font,); more than one citation is included** |
| **TOTAL Points possible** |  |  | **30 points total** |